

77. The desirability of opening a road from Kozhenchery to Thumpaman.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Panikkar (Member, Nominated) said that a road from Kozhenchery to Thumpaman was a serious want to the people of Thumpaman, Elavanthitta, Kuzhikala and Punnakadu, especially because they had no facilities for transport of manure and of communication between the said places where important public institutions such as schools, anchal office, market &c., were located. The subject was one that had been brought up in two previous sessions of the Assembly and the urgency and importance of the road was his excuse in pressing it on the attention of the Government again. He assured the Government that the ryots were prepared to give the lands required for the road free of compensation. He requested therefore for the early construction of the road and presented a memorial signed by several inhabitants of the aforesaid villages on the subject.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

78. Improvement of the irrigation channels in the Shertallai taluk.

Mr. K. Kochu Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Shertallai taluk) observed that, unlike other parts of the State, the ryots of the taluk had not been afforded special facilities for the cultivation of their wet lands, and that agriculture was steadily deteriorating. He therefore requested that the existing irrigation channels which had become silted up and useless for agricultural purposes be deepened and improved at an early date and the necessary culverts provided in some of the channels. He said that he had already given to the Chief Engineer a list of the irrigation channels that had to be immediately repaired.

He added that, attached to the Alleppey-Shertallai canal now under construction, there were a few important canals and requested that those canals should be deepened and improved and rendered fit for navigation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

79. The desirability of improving the communications in the taluk.

Mr. P. Kochu Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Shertallai taluk) expressed with regret that the Shertallai taluk could not boast of even a single road and that the taluk was the most backward in point of communication. The people were seriously handicapped on that account. He also stated that the Shertallai canal, which was sanctioned by the Government as a result of the repeated representations of the people of the taluk, was not useful to the whole taluk in general as a means of common communication and was progressing only very slowly. He requested that the following works might be carried out at an early date :—

- (1) A road from Thanneermukom to Alleppey—12 miles.
- (2) A road from Thanneermukom to the Shertallai Taluk Cutcherry—3 miles.
- (3) A few useful canals connecting the new Shertallai canal and the Vembanad lake in the east.

He added that the construction of the above roads and canals would not necessitate the acquisition of new lands and could be easily done by the utilisation of the available Sirkar lands and other local facilities. In conclusion, the Member requested that the Dewan might be pleased to visit the taluk and verify personally the sadly neglected condition of the taluk so far as communications were concerned.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member are noted. I shall visit the Shertallai taluk without much delay.

80. Improvement of communications in the Shertallai taluk.

Mr. Krishnan Neelacantan (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the canal sanctioned for the taluk from Alleppey to Shertallai would not be of use unless three

channels *via* Kanjithai, Arathumkal and Chettu were constructed so as to connect the sea on the west with the above-said canal. In addition to the three channels, he prayed for the construction of a road from Alleppey to Arurmukkom. In conclusion, the Member requested that the Dewan should take the earliest opportunity to visit the taluk and ascertain for himself the needs of the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

81. The desirability of improving the means of communication in the Vaikam taluk.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vaikam taluk) requested that the following roads might be sanctioned :—

(1) Road from Vechur to Vaikam. There was a village road between the two places but it was not cartable and was in a neglected condition. Several canals crossed the roads and those crossings were difficult and dangerous during the monsoons. He requested that the above road be improved and made cartable and connected with the Kumarakom road and that bridges be constructed across the Maramveetil *thodu* and Vallayil *thodu*.

Dewan.—This work is estimated to cost Rs. 90,000.

(2) The Member, proceeding, said that the second road required was from Piravom to Thalayolaparambu. There was a 3 feet trace between the two places and it was necessary to convert it into a cartable road.

(3) Road from Chenganda to Arukutti. The road was highly necessary as communication between the two places was rendered difficult by extensive stretches of hot sand.

Dewan's reply.—None of these roads are included in the programme of works for the Kottayam Division. The Government have already decided in G. O. No 227/P. W., dated the 12th January 1915, that these works should lie over for consideration after two years.

82. The construction of the Puchakal Canal.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) stated that the canal called Puchakal *thodu* and lying between Panavalli and Pallipuram properthies, connected the Vembanad lake and the Ulavaippu Kayal. The *thodu* was only $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles long, of which one mile was in a fairly good condition, but owing to accumulation of silt in the middle of the canal, the canal could not be used. The opening of the *thodu* for a distance of one-fourth of a mile would facilitate communication from the sea-coast to the hills by means of the Kuthiathodu and Ithipuzha river. It would also help transport of goods from the two places and would be an easy route to the town of Vaikam from Pallipuram and Panavalli. He therefore requested that the Puchakal *thodu* be improved and rendered fit for traffic.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

83. The urgent necessity for improving the Poovakat tank.

Mr. Chacko Ouseph (Member, T. I. C., Changanacherri) said that the Poovakat tank was the only public tank in the town of Changanacherri open to all classes of people. It comprised 11 acres and supplied a great public necessity. The tank was, however, in a neglected condition, the parapet walls all round and the bathing ghats being completely in ruins. The outlet was in disorder and the water was very bad on account of the accumulated dirt of 20 years. In spite of the above defects, the tank was even now used, to the serious detriment of public health, because no other tank was available. He requested that, in the interests of the health of the town, the tank should be thoroughly repaired at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to this tank, the Chief Engineer says that he has called for a report from the Executive Engineer. I may add that the Government